

be distinguished by its villousness, ciliate-lacinate stipules, lacinate bracts, and glandular-punctate capsule with persistent

bracteoles. The plant is used for the treatment of certain skin inflammations such as boils.

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21. REDISCOVERY OF *ARGYREIA COONOORENSIS* SMITH & RAMAS. (CONVOLVULACEAE) AFTER A CENTURY FROM THE NILGIRIS, TAMIL NADU, INDIA

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The Western Ghats is one of the biodiversity hotspots of the world (Mittermeier *et al.* 2005) and the Nilgiri Mountains are one of the most important centres of speciation for flowering plants in the Western Ghats (Daniels 2001). While working on a major UGC project "Inventorization, Documentation and Conservation of Endemic Angiosperms in Nilgiris", the authors explored the north-eastern part of Nilgiris which resulted in the collection of an *Argyreia* species from Kilkothagiri.

After careful examination and comparison with specimens deposited at the Central National Herbarium (CNH), Kolkata, along with relevant literature, its identity was confirmed as *Argyreia coonoorensis* Smith and Ramas. The voucher specimen is deposited in the herbarium of Department of Botany, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore (BUH). The plant was first collected by Meebold during 1910 in Coonoor, Nilgiris, which was described by Smith and Ramaswami (1913). The type specimen deposited at CAL was the only authenticated specimen available for reference in India till now. Even though the Nilgiris (and other areas of the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu) were explored by botanists of the Botanical Survey of India, Southern Circle, Coimbatore, the species was not recorded in these explorations. However, it was included in the flora of the Nilgiris (Chandrasekhar 1987, Sharma *et al.* 1977) based on the collection of Meebold. In spite of its rarity, it was not included by earlier botanists (Henry *et al.* 1978; Nayar and Sastry 1987, 1988, 1990; Vajravelu and Daniel 1983) in their rare/threatened lists of South India.

Argyreia coonoorensis W.W. Smith & Ramaswami in Rec. Bot. Surv. India 6: 30, 1913; Gamble, Fl. Pres. Madras, 2: 909, 1923; Sharma *et al.*, in *Biol. Mem.* 2(1&2): 95, 1977; Chandrasekhar in Henry *et al.*, Fl. Tamil Nadu, Ser. I; Analysis 2: 101, 1987.

A large climbing shrub; stems grooved, clothed with hirsute hairs; leaves broadly ovate-cordate to narrow,

lanceolate, 15–20 cm x 12–15 cm, nerves 10–12 pairs; sparsely pilose above, silky pubescent beneath, apex acute, base cordate; petiole 4–5.5 cm, hirsute; Flowers in few flowered (3–4 flowered) cymes; peduncles upto, 26 cm. Bracts often conspicuous, large ovate-lanceolate, thin veined pubescent, linear strigose to 2 cm. Sepals 5 equal, ovate, obtuse, strigosely hirsute 1.5 cm. Corolla bright purple with deeper throat, 7 cm long, tubular infundibuliform, the bands hairy, funnel-shaped 5 cm across, tube 5 cm long. Stamens 5 included, unequal, to 2 cm, anthers 3.5 mm. Ovary sub-sessile, style straight, stigma globose.

Ecology: Occasional along the fringes of disturbed evergreen forest.

Fl.: May–July.

Specimen Examined: INDIA: Tamil Nadu, Nilgiri district, Coonoor, Dec. 1910, Meebold, A., 12397 (CNH); Kilkothagiri, ±1,650 msl, 20.vi.2009, Ramachandran, V.S. and R. Sasi, 5071 (BUH).

We found the species growing in the wild, mostly on the fringes of the evergreen forests along with *Ternstroemia japonica* (Thunb.) Thunb., *Cyananchem alatum* Wight & Arn., *Gymnema tingens* (Roxb.) Wight & Arn., *Arisaema leschenaultia* Bl., and *Pouzolzia* sp., normally at an altitude of c.1,650 m above msl. It was also seen occasionally in the disturbed evergreen forest of the Eastern Nilgiris

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Dr. P. Lakshmi Narasimhan, Deputy Director, Central National Herbarium, Kolkata, for providing necessary help in identification of the species. Thanks are also due to Dr. S. Manian, Professor and Head, Department of Botany, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, for providing necessary facilities to carry out the research work in the Department.

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22. MISTAKEN IDENTIFICATION AND DISTRIBUTION RANGE OF *COMMELINA CAROLINIANA* WALTER (COMMELINACEAE) – AN ADDITION TO THE LIST OF *COMMELINA* SPECIES OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, INDIA

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A few plants of a *Commelina* species collected from three localities of Jammu [along the banks of a freshwater canal, outside the new campus (University of Jammu), and agricultural fields of Ranbir Singh Pura and Bishnah tehsils] were transplanted in the experimental plots of the Botanical

Garden, University of Jammu. While identifying the species through published floras and other literature (Hooker 1892; Prasad *et al.* 1996; Sharma and Kachroo 1981; Swami and Gupta 1998), we realised that the species, initially mistaken for *Commelina paludosa* Blume, was *Commelina caroliniana*

Table 1: Morphological characterisation of the collection of *Commelina caroliniana*

Character	Present collection	Hooker (1892)	Faden (1993)
Flowering	July/Aug. to Nov.	Not mentioned	July to Nov.
Spathe type	Peduncled, leaf opposed, ovate-cordate, not falcate	Peduncled, axillary, cordate	Not at all to slightly falcate
Upper cyrme	Well-developed in spathes of older age, usually 1-flowered	Not mentioned except 1-2-fid	Usually vestigial, rarely well-developed and 1-flowered
Staminodes	Three, each 6-lobed, yellow usually with a central maroon spot	Not mentioned	Three, all with well-developed antherodes, yellow, usually with a central maroon spot
Middle anther	Connective white	Not mentioned	Connective white
Leaf length (cm)	3.6-18.9	2.6-7.2	2.5-10.5
Leaf breadth (cm)	1.2-2.9	1.3-1.8	0.7-2.4
Spathe length (cm)	1.8-3.0	1.3-2.6	2.35; Walter's record
Spathe breadth (cm)	0.7-1.2	Not mentioned	0.8
Fruit length (mm)	7-9.5	Not mentioned	(5)-6-8
Seed*			
i. Length (mm)	3.8-5.5	Not mentioned	2.4-4.3(-4.6)
ii. Breadth (mm)	1.8-3.0	Not mentioned	(1.6)-2.0-2.3
Chromosome number	2n=90	Not mentioned	2n = c.86

*Posticous (Ventral locule)